



Cal Grant T Program 2003-04

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Cal Grant T?

The state-funded Cal Grant T is a tuition/fee award program that is offered for one full-time academic year (or the equivalent) to you if you have a bachelor's degree or higher and are actively working toward an initial teaching credential (preliminary or clear). You must be enrolled in and attending a program of professional teacher preparation approved by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) on at least a half-time basis as defined by the institution.

Each year, the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) offers Cal Grant T awards to eligible students. The number of awards and amounts are subject to the budget. For 2003-04, the Governor's proposed budget projects award amounts of up to \$2,082 at the California State University, \$4,869 at the University of California and \$8,832 at a private California college or university.

Prior to receiving an award payment, you must sign and return a Teaching Service Agreement wherein you agree to teach full-time for a minimum of one year in a California public low-performing elementary or secondary school for each award increment of \$2,000 you receive. Your maximum service requirement will not exceed four years.

After you receive your credential, you must begin your service with a low-performing school. Your service at that school will remain eligible, even if your school ceases to qualify as a low-performing school during the next three consecutive years.

What do I need to apply?

To meet application eligibility requirements, you must:

- ◆ Be a California resident
- ◆ Be a U.S. Citizen or an eligible noncitizen
- ◆ Have complied with U.S. Selective Service requirements, as applicable
- ◆ Demonstrate financial need, as defined by the Commission, by having **both** an error-free:

- 1) Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on file with the Federal Processor by June 1, 2003. If you have not filed a FAFSA, you may file on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov, **and**
- 2) Cal Grant T GPA Verification Form on file with the Commission by June 1, 2003. If you attended a school that does not issue grades and issues pass/fail evaluations, the Commission will accept photo copies of ACT, SAT I or GRE test scores in lieu of a verified GPA.

What do I need to do to receive my Cal Grant benefits?

- ◆ Have earned a baccalaureate (i.e., BA, BS) or higher degree (i.e. MA, MS), or the equivalent.
- ◆ Be enrolled in an initial (preliminary or clear) teacher preparation program at a CTC-approved institution.
- ◆ Maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the school of attendance.
- ◆ Maintain attendance on at least a half-time basis, as defined by the institution.

What conditions would prevent me from receiving a Cal Grant T?

- ◆ Already have, or have applied for, an initial teaching authorization such as a preliminary or clear credential.
- ◆ Have received any extended teacher credential program benefits through the state Cal Grant program.
- ◆ Owe a refund on any state or federal educational grant or have delinquent or defaulted student loans.
- ◆ Exceed the income or asset ceilings established for the year in which the award is offered. (See back panel for "Income and Asset Ceilings for 2003-04").

How will I know if I'm selected?

All Cal Grant T applicants who submit a complete application will be notified of their award status by the Commission. When you submit a complete application by the deadline (June 1, 2003), meet the eligibility requirements, and are selected for an award, you will receive an award letter and a Teaching Service Agreement in the mail. You must sign and return the original Teaching Service Agreement to the Commission before an award payment will be made.

How and when are the benefits provided?

Benefits will be sent to the participating school where you are enrolled. Once you have notified the Commission of your school of attendance, you should contact your school for information on disbursement policies. Your school can then confirm your eligibility and make a Cal Grant T benefit payment. Remember, you must be attending an approved teacher credentialing program on at least a half-time basis. Receipt of this award may affect other financial aid awards; check with your school.

What if I don't start school right away?

If you are awarded a Cal Grant T and are unable to attend a CTC-approved teacher credentialing program all or part of that academic year, you may request a "leave of absence." Contact the Commission if you need further information about this option.

It is also important that you promptly notify the Commission of any changes in the following:

- ◆ School of attendance
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Name or address
- ◆ Social Security Number (SSN)

Under what circumstance can my Cal Grant T be withdrawn by the Commission?

Your Cal Grant T award will be withdrawn if:

- ◆ Your enrollment falls below half-time, and you have not requested a leave of absence.
- ◆ You receive your initial (preliminary or clear) teacher credential prior to receiving your full award.

Are Other Cal Grant Options Available?

Yes, if you:

- 1) are currently receiving Cal Grant benefits, or have received them within the last 15 months,

and

- 2) have earned a bachelor's degree,

then you may be eligible to apply for the one-year Teaching Credential Program (TCP) extension. Contact the Commission if you would like further information about this program.

Income and Asset Ceilings for 2003-04

Income Ceilings

Dependent students and Independent students with dependents other than a spouse.

Family Size

Six or more	\$ 77,100
Five	71,500
Four	66,700
Three	61,400
Two	60,000

Independent Students

Single, no dependents	\$ 24,500
Married, no other dependents	28,000

Asset Ceilings

Dependent Students*	\$ 51,600
Independent Students	24,600

*These asset ceilings also apply to Independent students with dependents **other** than a spouse.

How Do I Contact the Commission?

If you have questions regarding the Cal Grant T program:

① **You can call** 1-888-CA GRANT (that's 1-888-224-7268), from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

☐ **You can write** the Commission at:

California Student Aid Commission
Grant Programs Processing Section

Attn: Cal Grant T

P. O. Box 419028

Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9028

✉ **You can e-mail** your questions to the Commission at custsvcs@csac.ca.gov.

You can review general Cal Grant information; just log onto the Commission's Web site at www.csac.ca.gov.

CTC-Approved Institutions

California State University

Bakersfield
Chico
Dominguez Hills
Fresno
Fullerton
Hayward
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego
San Francisco
San Jose
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus
University of California
Berkeley
Davis
Irvine
Los Angeles
Riverside
San Diego
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz

Private Colleges and Universities

Alliant International University
Antioch University
Argosy University-Orange
Azusa Pacific University
Bethany Bible College
Biola University
California Baptist College
California Lutheran University
Chapman University
Christian Heritage College
Claremont Graduate University
College of Notre Dame
Concordia University
Dominican College
Fresno Pacific College
Holy Names College
Hope International University
John F. Kennedy University
La Sierra University
Loyola Marymount University
Mills College
Mount St. Mary's College
National University
New College of California
Occidental College
Pacific Oaks College
Pacific Union College
Patten College
Pepperdine University
Point Loma Nazarene College of California
Saint Mary's College
Santa Clara University
Simpson College
Stanford University
The Master's College
The National Hispanic University
University of La Verne
University of the Pacific
University of Phoenix
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of Southern California
Vanguard University
Westmont College
Whittier College

